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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,813	03/09/2004	Toru Kimura	OPS C-636	2049
23474 7590 05/16/2007 FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C. 2026 RAMBLING ROAD KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631			EXAMINER HUNG, STEPHEN C	
			ART UNIT 2615	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/16/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/796,813

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen C. Hung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/09/2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/09/2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-5** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Hirai (US 6,873,787 B1)** in view of **Hoover et al. (US 2002/0131611 A1)**.

**Claim 1.** Hirai teaches a sound information output control circuit comprising:

digital information generation means for generating digitized sound information (Figure 1, DVD 5);

power supply control means ("power supply," column 5, line 66)

selection means (Figure 1, switching circuit 8) for outputting a selection signal for outputting either the sound information of the digital information generation means or a signal from a receiver circuit 3.

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However, Hirai does not explicitly teach an analog information generation means. It does teach a receiving circuit 3, but this receiving circuit is designed to receive work with a digital television broadcast, not an analog one.

Also, Hirai does not teach that the power supply control means stops the supply of power to the generation means not selected.

In the same field of endeavor, Hoover et al. teaches an analog television system (Figure 1) with a multitude of speakers. Speakers not being used in the system are capable of being shut off ("switch off a supply voltage to elements that are unused," [0002]).

Therefore, since it is well known in the art that "analog television is the most prevalent communications medium in the world"

(<http://proquest.safaribooksonline.com/1578701775/ch01>), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to configure the receiving circuit of Hirai to also receive analog broadcast television signals.

It also would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the power supply control means stop the supply of power to the generation means not selected, in a similar manner taught by Hoover, in order "to avoid unnecessary power dissipation and heat" (Hoover, [0002]).

**Claim 2.** The modified apparatus of Hirai teaches the sound information output control circuit according to claim 1, wherein the digital information generation means reproduces the sound information from information recorded in DVDs (Hirai, Figure 1, DVD 5) or CDs.

**Claim 3.** The modified apparatus of Hirai teaches the sound information output control circuit according to claim 1, wherein the analog information generation means reproduces the sound information from a television receiving signal (Hirai, "television broadcast wave," column 2, lines 65-66).

**Claim 4.** The modified apparatus of Hirai teaches a display unit (Hirai, Figure 1, display 14) provided with the sound information output control circuit disclosed according to claim 1, said display unit further comprising:

built-in speakers (Hirai, Figure 1, loudspeaker 15) for outputting sound information from the analog information generation means,

a first external output terminal (Hirai, Figure 1, external output terminal 11a) for outputting the sound information from the analog information generation means; and

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a second external output terminal (Hirai, Figure 1, external output terminal 11b) for outputting the sound information from the digital information generation means.

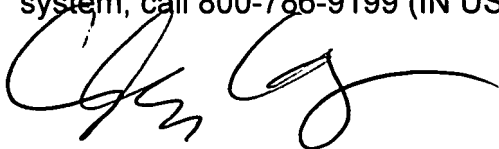
**Claim 5.** The modified apparatus of Hirai teaches the display unit according to claim 4, wherein the selection means comprises means for displaying the selection items on a screen and means for outputting the selection signal based on operation information of an operator associated with the selection items (Figure 1, remote controller 17).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen C. Hung whose telephone number is (571)270-1457. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30am-5pm, Every other Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



S.H.

5/07/2007



**SINH TRAN**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**